

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08634 251122Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----251123Z 036694 /17

O R 251112Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08634

EXDIS

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF KAPUWO

REF: STATE 120274

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET ALONE WITH CHIEF KAPUWO
MORNING OF MAY 25 JUST PRIOR TO THE CHIEF'S DEPARTURE
FOR PARIS. OFFICER MADE POINTS IN REFTEL AND UNDER-
SCORED A) THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE WESTERN FIVE
WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS SO FAR IN DISCUSSIONS
ON NAMIBIA BETWEEN THE CONTACT GROUP AND THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT; AND B) THAT THE WESTERN FIVE WERE
CONCERNED THAT THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN NAMIBIA
LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE BE A LEGITIMATE PROCESS AND
THEREFORE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF RESOLUTION 385.

2. KAPUWO SEEMED SURPRISED THAT THE TURNHALLE
CONSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY WAS TO BE SUSPENDED. OFFICER
STRESSED THAT THE TURNHALLE PROPOSALS COULD BE CON-
SIDERED BY THE PROSPECTIVE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ALONG
WITH ANY OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL IDEAS. THE WESTERN FIVE
DID NOT SEEK TO DICTATE THE RESULTS OF A PROCESS NOR
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TO FAVOR ANY POLITICAL FACTION BUT ONLY TO ESTABLISH
STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY.

3. OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS ON A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE
AUTHORITY WERE PRESENTED TO KAPUWO WITH EMPHASIS
THAT THIS INTERIM ARRANGEMENT MUST BE POLITICALLY
NEUTRAL AND NOT TURNHALLE BY ANOTHER NAME. KAPUWO

WAS TOLD THAT WE REGARD DISCUSSIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO BE THE FIRST TEST OF THIS NEW WESTERN EFFORT AND THAT WE HOPED FOR HIS SUPPORT. KAPUWO DID NOT JUMP INTO THIS OPENING. HE SAID THAT TO ABANDON THE TURNHALLE PROCESS WOULD DAMAGE HIS CREDIBILITY IN NAMIBIA AND CONCLUDED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE THE BODY WHICH APPOINTS THE MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LONG ATTACK ON THE LEGITIMACY OF MOST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS BUT FINALLY RETURNED TO THE POINT AT HAND SAYING THAT HE WOULD WANT TO THINK FURTHER ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.

4. COMMENT: IF KAPUWO DID INDEED HAVE A MESSAGE TO CONVEY WHICH WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE EFFORTS OF THE FIVE, THEN HE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ON LEARNING THAT THE TURNHALLE PROPOSALS WERE TO BE SUSPENDED AND THAT THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY MUST BE ABSOLUTELY NEUTRAL IN CHARACTER. WE WILL NO DOUBT HEAR FROM HIM AGAIN ONCE HE HAS ABSORBED THE IMPLICATION OF OUR POSITION.

MILLER

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